

Message Text

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44

ACTION H-03

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P R 171445Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5529

INFO SECDEF

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 6799

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT GR

SUBJ: VISIT OF CODEL ROSENTHAL

REF A. ATHENS 6582 B. ATHENS 6631 C. FBIS ATHENS 121652Z

SEP 74 (NOTAL) D. ATHENS 6637

1. CODEL ROSENTHAL SPENT FOUR WORKING DAYS IN ATHENS, SEPTEMBER 9-12, DURING WHICH THEY SAW PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, DEFMIN AVEROFF AND A NUMBER OF FIGURES FROM VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF GREEK POLITICAL LIFE. OTHER THAN CALLS ON CARAMANLIS AND AVEROFF (AS ACTING FONMIN) WHICH WERE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE, THEY DECLINED OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS AND USED RENTAL CAR RATHER THAN EMBASSY VEHICLE. THEY ALSO HAD EXTENDED CONTACTS WITH SEVERAL KEY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTING ATHENS ON SEPTEMBER 12.

2. CODEL WAS BRIEFED INITIALLY BY DCM AND THAN BY APPROPRIATE COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS ON SEPTEMBER 9. CODEL WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY CONTROL OFFICER ONLY DURING SEPTEMBER 10 CALL ON DEFMIN AVEROFF AND DECLINED TO ACCEPT EMBASSY PRESENCE DURING OTHER CONTACTS. ROSENTHAL HAD SESSION

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WITH AMBASSADOR TASCA EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 10 (SEE REF D)

BEFORE ATTENDING INFORMAL DINNER WITH DCM. PAO HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH CODEL, INCLUDING ATTENDANCE AT SOCIAL FUNCTION WITH GREEK POLITICIANS SEPTEMBER 11 AND AT PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. DCM EXPLAINED TO CODEL THAT WE WERE OPERATING ON ASSUMPTION THAT US FACILITIES AND US-GREEK MILITARY COOPERATION WERE IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT WE WERE CERTAIN MANY THOUGHTFUL GREEKS, INCLUDING SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT THIS CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP ENSURED AGAINST GREECE'S ISOLATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR THESE REASONS ANY UNILATERAL USG ACTION TO TERMINATE CURRENT HOMEPORING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE UNWISE AND WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS USG ABANDONMENT OF GREECE, WITH ATTENDANT IMPLICATION THAT USG WAS CONCENTRATING ON MILITARY COOPERATION WITH TURKEY. DCM NOTED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY HOW GOG PLANNED TO FOLLOW UP ITS DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO AND HOW THIS WOULD AFFECT US-GREEK COOPERATION. HE ADDED THAT IT UNLIKELY GOG WOULD TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES GREECE DERIVED FROM NATO AND BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, APPRECIATION OF WHICH BY POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAD EMERGED FROM GREEK STUDY OF SITUATION AFTER NATO WITHDRAWAL DECISION. WHATEVER ITS DECISION, WE REMAINED READY TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF SITUATION GOG MIGHT WISH TO RAISE BUT BELIEVED INITIATIVE IN IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION SHOULD BE GOG'S.

4. IN COUNTRY TEAM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, CODEL INDICATED DOUBT THAT DEPARTMENT AWARE OF EXTENT OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN GREECE AND DEPTH OF FEELING THIS REPRESENTED. EMBASSY POINTED OUT THAT PROBLEM FULLY REPORTED AND PROVIDED COPIES OF REPORTING CABLES. CODEL SHOWED INTEREST IN RECENT EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN ALLEGING IMPROPRIETIES IN HANDLING OF US-SUPPLIED MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IN RESPONSE TO WHICH

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Disposition History: n/a
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